

# NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

January 2001

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## Upcoming NCTC Meeting

The next meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission will be held **Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at 9:30 A.M.**, in the **Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California.**

## A Look at the Gold Country Stage Fixed Route Service



The Gold Country Stage has been experiencing record ridership levels over the past couple of years. Gold Country Stage ridership increased by nine percent between Fiscal Years 1998/99 and 1999/00. The FY 1999/00 ridership totaled 328,683, an increase of 27,162 from the previous year.

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The growing ridership has resulted in a systemwide farebox recovery ratio that is nearly double the state minimum requirement of ten percent. At the end of FY 1999/00, seven of the eleven Gold Country Stage routes had an average farebox recovery ratio higher than fourteen percent. Five of those routes impressively had an average farebox recovery ratio greater than twenty-two percent. These five routes and their average farebox recovery ratio for FY 1999/00 are shown below:

- Route 1 – Main Street Express 22.0%
- Route 3 – Southern GV Loop 28.5%
- Route 4 – GV-NC/Brunswick 26.3%
- Route 5 – Express to Auburn 46.8%
- Route 7 – Bitney Springs 64.2%

The current FY 2000/01 average farebox recovery ratio trends per route through the month of November indicate that six of the eleven Gold Country Stage Routes have farebox recovery ratios greater than fifteen percent. The five routes previously listed are experiencing average farebox recovery ratios of at least twenty-five percent.

With ridership growing steadily, and with stricter air quality requirements now in effect, the Gold Country Stage has been transitioning its fleet of vehicles to compressed natural gas. Currently Gold Country Stage has the largest clean air fleet in Nevada County and is investigating purchasing several new compressed natural gas vehicles.

This steady increase in ridership can be contributed to the customer oriented

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service provided by the staff of Gold Country Stage who are dedicated to addressing the transit needs of western Nevada County.

## Demand for Paratransit Service Continues to Grow

Paratransit service is a demand response transit service provided for the elderly and disabled patrons of Nevada County.

Gold Country Telecare, Inc. is Nevada County's paratransit service provider with a total of 1,457 clients. Of the 1,457 paratransit clients, 1,268 are age sixty or older, and the other 189 clients are under sixty years old with disabilities.

Statistics indicate that paratransit ridership increased by seventeen percent between Fiscal Years 1998/99 and 1999/00. The FY 1999/00 ridership totaled 61,073 an increase of 8,781 from the previous year.

The current FY 2000/01 paratransit ridership through the month of November is up twenty-nine percent compared to the same period of time in FY 1999/00.

The number of average passengers per day for FY 2000/01 through the month of November is up forty-two percent compared to the same period of time in FY 1999/00. Gold Country Telecare, Inc. is currently averaging 194 passengers per day for FY 2000/01.

With the continuing increase in Nevada County's elderly population, demand for paratransit service is expected to continue on an upward climb.

## **Gold Country Telecare Wins Award and Receives Grant**



The Beverly Foundation recently conducted a nationwide "Star Search" of 350 supplemental transportation programs for seniors. This search culminated in awards to 11 innovative programs throughout the United States, including Nevada County's paratransit provider, Gold Country Telecare, Inc.

The Beverly Foundation is a non-profit organization. It is dedicated to promoting quality of life for America's older population through research, demonstration, and education that addresses long-term care and transportation mobility.

The Foundation was, "impressed with Telecare's collaborative, community-based and non-profit effort to provide an overall program and mission to serve seniors and persons with disabilities."

In addition to a \$1,500 monetary award, Telecare was chosen for an in-depth case study of its program. This case study will be published by the Beverly Foundation, and will be distributed nationally as a model for organizations and communities throughout the United States.

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In December, Gold Country Telecare, Inc. received a Catholic Healthcare West Community Grant. This grant will be used to start a new pilot project called, T.H.E. VAN PROGRAM (Transportation for Health and Enrichment).

This pilot project will provide no cost transportation, for seniors and persons with disabilities, to pre-scheduled healthcare and enrichment services in western Nevada County

Gold Country Telecare, Inc. will be targeting citizens that do not have access to fixed route public transportation due to their location and/or living situation, as well as, those on fixed or low incomes who do not always have fare money to use Telecare.

The T.H.E. VAN PROGRAM is being implemented to help overcome the lack of transportation that prevents many seniors and persons with disabilities from participating in primary/preventive health services and enrichment programs in our community.

## **A Look at the Progress of the Truckee 267 Bypass Project**

The purpose of the \$33.6 million Truckee Bypass Project is to relocate State Route 267 along a new alignment east of downtown Truckee. The bypass will reduce traffic congestion and traffic delays and improve safety along the existing Route 267 in downtown Truckee.

The route is of local and regional significance providing access to residential, industrial, commercial, and recreational land uses. The route serves interregional, local commuter, and recreational traffic traveling between the Tahoe Basin, Martis Valley, Truckee, and Interstate 80. Furthermore, State Route 267 provides access to the Northstar-At-Tahoe Ski

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Area and the Truckee Tahoe Airport, and serves as a connecting link between Interstate 80 and the Tahoe Basin.

Final design for the Truckee Bypass Project was completed in October of 1998. The contract went to bid in July of 1999 and MCM/Ladd (a joint venture) was chosen as the General Contractor. Construction began in August of 1999 and is expected to be completed by fall of 2003.

Below are some pictures of the progress:



Truckee River Bridge  
Construction Site



Truckee River Bridge Support  
Earthwork

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Truckee River Bridge Construction



Truckee River Bridge



Looking west towards existing interchange—Forming the superstructure of the I-80 separation over State Route 89.

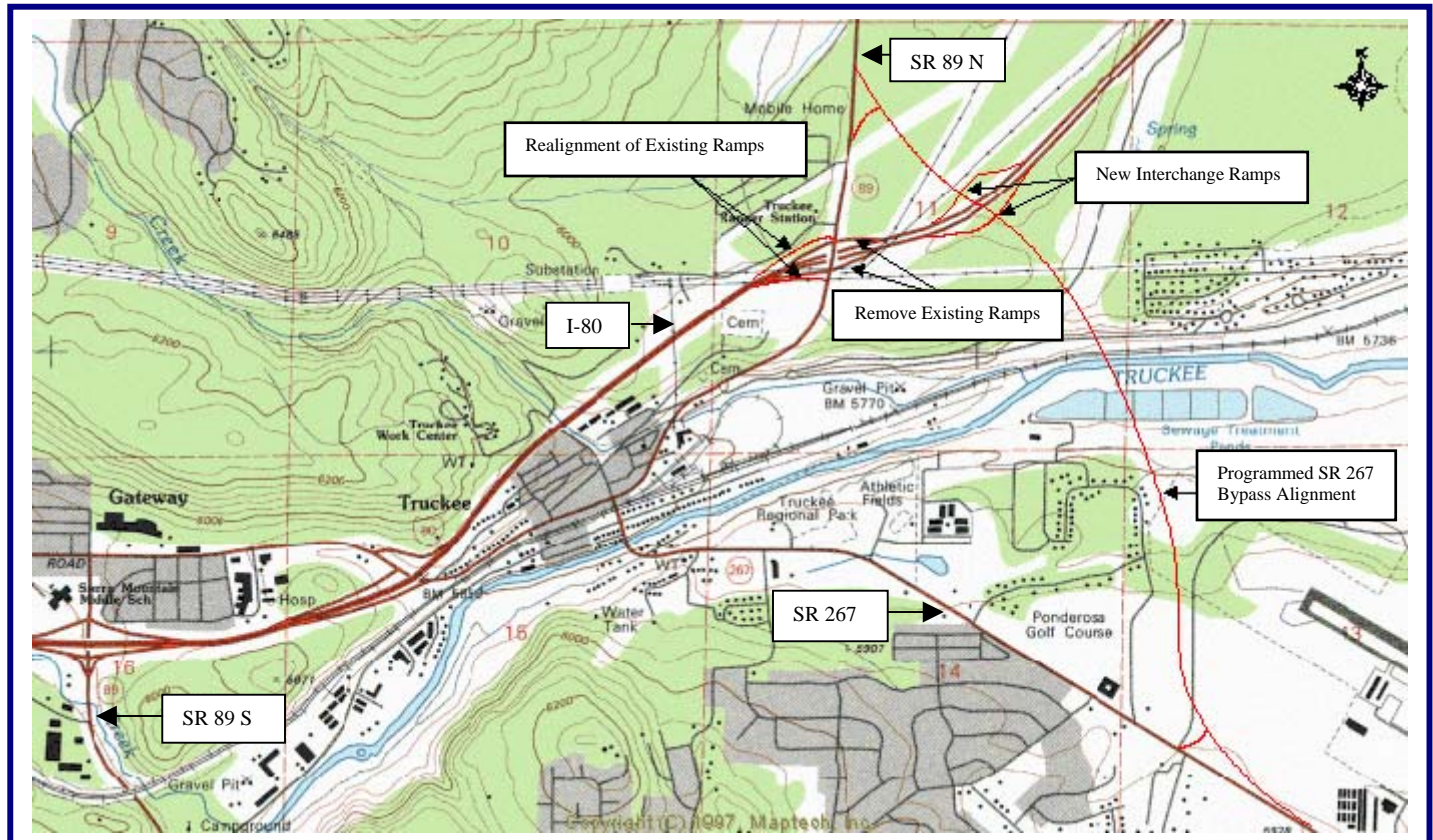
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SR 267 Bypass Regional Location

### **Nevada County Transportation Commission**

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Nevada County. NCTC coordinates State and Federal transportation programs for Nevada County, the Cities of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee.

### **NCTC Commissioners**

Linda Stevens, Chairwoman  
Mayor of Grass Valley

Peter Van Zant  
Nevada County Supervisor District 1

Bruce Conklin  
Nevada County Supervisor District 3

Kerry Arnett  
Mayor of Nevada City

Robert W. Drake  
Truckee Town Council

Chet Krage  
Member at Large

Ann Guerra  
Member at Large

The Nevada County Transportation Commission Newsletter is published bimonthly. Interested persons and agencies can be added to the mailing list by writing or calling the Nevada County Transportation Commission office.

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